

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 16-31, with the following amended paragraph:

Generally, the technology of capillary manufacture does not dictate that the devices be strictly cylindrical, or that they possess exact circular symmetry. In most instruments employing capillary-type sample containment, signal processing efficiency is related in some way to the flux of the interrogation beam radiation that may be delivered to the sample chamber, and to the amount of signal energy that can be collected and delivered to a detector. The present invention teaches the benefits,[[.]] in terms of interrogation efficiency and signal collection efficiency, of making any or all of several modifications to the standard capillary configuration. Frequently, interrogation radiation may be delivered to the capillary in collimated fashion, but signal energy will be radiated into a large angular swath. Naturally, modifications to the capillary geometry that affect interrogation efficiency may also alter the efficiency of collection of signal radiation, and so it is necessary to consider these tradeoffs in the process of altering the symmetric cylindrical geometry of a traditional capillary. The choice of capillary design parameters may, in fact, be driven by various instrumental considerations, such as the scanning mechanism, number of capillaries, detector characteristics, choice of interrogation light source, properties of the analyte, data processing algorithms, and so on.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 19-24, with the following amended paragraph:

As well as improving the coupling efficiency of interrogation energy into the bore of the capillary, the invention provides for enhanced coupling of signal energy out of the bore and into ~~to~~ the signal collection optical train. The careful design and construction of the window that couples the energy out of the bore can make more signal energy available for detection, and the proper use of reflectors can deliver energy to the detection optical train that would ordinarily be lost from conventional capillaries.